

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05656 171129Z

17

ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4923
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INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
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DEPT FOR CU/AF

AGENCY FOR IAA DESK, ICS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, NI
SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

1) TWO UNILAG PROFESSORS HAVE REQUESTED CURRENT INFORMATION RE UNIT-COURSE SYSTEM USED IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEADING. BOTH ARE MEMBERS FACULTY ARTS UNIT-COURSE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (ONE IS CHAIRMAN), WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE REPORTS, RESEARCH MATERIALS, PAMPHLETS ETC., AND PARTICULARLY STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE IN OTHER FORMER BRITISH COLONIES THAT HAVE MODELED THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM ON U.S. SYSTEM. BOTH PROFESSORS RECENT GRADUATES UWISCONSIN, STRONG ADVOCATES US EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, WOULD FIND MATERIALS HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING MAJOR ASPECTS OF UNIT-COURSE TO COLLEAGUES AND DEANS. (MAINLY BRITISH TRAINED, INCLUDING SEVERAL "DOUBTING THOMAS'S"). A MOVEMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, LED PRIMARILY BY US TRAINED NIGERIAN PROFESSORS, HAS RESULTED IN ADOPTION OF AMERICAN STYLED UNIT-COURSE SYSTEM IN NUMEROUS FACULTIES IN MOST NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES BEGINNING SEPT'76, IS HERALDED AS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OVER CURRENT ENGLISH-MODELED HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

2) WHILE WE REALIZE THIS IS UNIVERSITY PROBLEM, THE UNIT-COURSE SYSTEM HAS BEEN FORMALLY ADOPTED BY SEVERAL NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES,
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BUT THESE PROFESSORS (AND OTHERS) ARE CONCERNED THAT CURRENT TREND

TOWARD ONLY "PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION" OF UNIT-COURSE IDEAS/CONCEPTS
(DUE IN LARGE MEASURE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION
SYSTEM/PRACTICES) LIKELY LIMIT SUCCESS THIS CHANGE AND PROVIDE
FUEL FOR CRITICISM OF US EDUCATION, AN ISSUE COMMONLY DISCUSSED
AMONG NIGERIAN EDUCATORS/POLITICIANS.

3) IF APPROPRIATE MATERIALS CAN BE OBTAINED, REQUEST AIRSHIPMENT
UP TO 8 MULTIPLE COPIES SINCE PROFESSORS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES
HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS.

4) ADVISE.
CROSBY

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NNN

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